

DIRECTORATE OF
OPERATIONS

Intelligence Information Cable

Egypt
[NSC/1293/003/009]
ROUTINE

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EO 13526 3.3(b)(6)>25Yrs

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EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs

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DIST 14 MAY 1973

COUNTRY EGYPT/MIDDLE EAST

DOI AS OF LATE APRIL 1973

SUBJECT VIEWS

ON THE PROBABILITY THAT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT SERIOUSLY
IS CONSIDERING LAUNCHING HOSTILITIES AGAINST ISRAEL

ACQ

FIELD NO.

SOURCE

large
Signal?

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE EGYPTIAN OBSERVERS, CONTRARY TO VIEWS
EXPRESSED FOR SOME TIME IN THE PAST THAT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT
S A D A T WAS BLUFFING IN HIS THREATS TO LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE
AGAINST ISRAEL, NOW BELIEVE SADAT IS SERIOUS AND THAT TO CONSIDER
THAT HE IS BLUFFING IS UNREALISTIC AND NAIVE. THIS CHANGE IN
OPINION IS BASED ON POSITIVE INDICATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

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THAT SADAT IS MAKING AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO COMPLETE ALL PREPARATIONS BOTH IN THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FRONTS TO REACH THE "APPROPRIATE" LEVEL OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, SADAT IS PLACING MORE EMPHASIS ON OBTAINING ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT AND TRAINING MORE PILOTS FOR THE AIR FORCE. IN ADDITION, THE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE ARMED SERVICES IN GENERAL HAS BECOME MORE CONCENTRATED, ACCELERATED, AND IS BEING CONDUCTED WITH MORE SERIOUSNESS THAT HERETOFORE. PREPARATION FOR THE HOME FRONT IS ALSO RECEIVING MUCH MORE ATTENTION THAN IN THE PAST. SUCH SECTORS AS CIVIL DEFENSE, SUPPLIES, SERVICES, PROPAGANDA DISSEMINATION, AND THE ECONOMY ARE BEING REORGANIZED.

3. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION IS THAT SADAT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE DESPERATE IN HIS PLANNING. HE IS CONTINUING HIS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE DIPLOMATICALLY AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE RECEPTIVE TO ANY SORT OF ENCOURAGEMENT TOWARD A PEACEFUL SOLUTION PARTICULARLY AS WOULD INVOLVE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. ANY PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF A POSITIVE NATURE TOWARD EGYPT FROM PRESIDENT N I X O N WOULD PROBABLY CAUSE

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SADAT TO STAND DOWN SOMEWHAT ON HIS MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN FAVOR OF NEGOTIATIONS DESPITE HIS, SADAT'S, RECENT SPEECH IN WHICH HE MADE RATHER SCURRILOUS REMARKS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES. ONE POSITION THAT SADAT CANNOT CATEGORICALLY ACCEPT IS A RECOMMENDATION BY THE UNITED STATES FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. SADAT REMAINS SERIOUS ABOUT ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS BEFORE ANY RENEWED CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL. OBSERVERS IN EGYPT ARE CONVINCED THAT SADAT IS SERIOUS ABOUT RENEWING HOSTILITIES SHOULD HIS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS FAIL AND THAT IT WOULD BE NAIVE TO THINK THAT HE IS SIMPLY BLUFFING IN HIS RESOLUTE POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

4. [] DISSEM: SENT []

[] USUN, COMSIXTHFLT, USCINCEUR,
CINCUSNAVEUR, USAREUR, USAFE, CINCSOUTH.

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